

The Herald and News.

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NEWBERRY, S. C. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1908.

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* IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS? *
* By Rev. W. B. Aull. *

The letter of the little 8-year-old girl to Mr. Dana, editor of the Sun, asking this question, "Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?" has gone the round of the press several years, and with it the distinguished editor's reply, which is as follows: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as generosity and love and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith, then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence."

If this were a real little girl asking a great man a real question, it was done in all earnestness. "Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?" In her childlike way she puts him on his oath, and he affirms to her earnest, trusting heart that there is a real Santa Claus. Did he deceive that child? Does he wish to convey to the child mind that there is a real invisible being who is in reality the source of all good cheer that comes at Christmas time? If he does who is that being, and by what authority does he possess the devotion of a child's heart? Does he wish to take us back to Greek and Roman mythology? Does his theory teach trusting childhood the childhood of a Christian people, who is the author and source of all earthly goodness? These are not idle questions.

Deceptions are dangerous things. When truth is more wonderful and mysterious than fiction, why use fiction instead of fact? "The night shall be filled with music," if we could have ears to hear it, and the gentlest zephyrs are laden with angelic voices to ears touched by the Divine finger. An omnipresent God is more wonderful than a fantastic unreal Santa Claus. Why not lead the child to a profound truth, through an entrancing mystery, built on fact, rather than to seek to do this through goblin stories, which smack of heathen mythology? Is there anything more wonderful in all creation than the story of the Christ-child whose birth we celebrate?

Is there anything more beautiful than the thought that this Christ-child comes into the child life at Christmas time with material joys? Who is more worthy of the child's love and worship? To whom do you think it is due? What answer can the children of God give to this?

The story is no less wonderful that the Christ-child comes with His good gifts, than it is that Santa Claus brings them. The greatest distinction is one is a fact and the other a falsehood.

Some children are taught to speak first a "gibberish jargon" and the task is left to the teacher to root out a false language and instill a true one. They educate through falsehood into fact, supposing a child cannot receive the truth.

Virginia shall have her question answered. She has been on the "anxious bench" a long while. There is no Santa Claus, Virginia. But there is a Christ-child to whom you can speak in whispers up in the twinkling stars, and He will hear all your wishes. He it is who gives "every good and perfect gift" of whom the angels sang on the first Christmas night, and who brings all the blessedness on Christmas day. He is a real, live, loving King, who has a beautiful home for you in the skies, Virginia.

China Grove, N. C., Dec., 1908.

Amity Lodge, No. 87, A. F. M.
An extra communication of Amity Lodge, No. 87, A. F. M., will be held next Friday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Fraternity Hall. Visiting brethren cordially welcomed.
Installation of officers.
The F. C. degree will be conferred.
Van Smith, W. M.
H. M. Kinard, Secretary.

HOW TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. O. B. Martin Summarizes His Views as to the Needs of the School System in South Carolina.

News and Courier.

Columbia, December 13.—State Superintendent of Education Martin has summarized under ten headings the recommendations in his final annual report to the general assembly as follows:

"(1) A commission should be appointed to revise the school Code and submit the same to the general assembly at its next session.

"(2) Our system of county supervision should be improved by making county boards elective by the people and the superintendents elective by county boards.

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"(3) There should be a State tax or State appropriation to raise the per capita per child in each county to at least \$4. Weak counties should be aided first. Such an appropriation would tend to give us a State school system.

"(4) The legislature could well afford to make an appropriation to aid rural schools which run for eight months, and which have eight grades. There should be at least two teachers and forty-five pupils in such schools. Such action would encourage consolidation and local taxation. Many communities cannot meet the requirements of the High School Act.

"(5) The High School Act should be amended so that small towns can comply with its requirements, so that the number of schools in large counties may be increased, and so as to give the State high school board more discretion and authority in passing upon the merits of each individual case. It will be necessary also to increase the high school appropriation as the demand increases.

"(6) I believe that the time has come when the legislature should establish agricultural high schools. Other trade and vocational schools will follow within a few years.

"(7) It will be necessary to make better provision for summer schools for teachers if this work is to be kept up as heretofore.

"(8) The method of conducting teachers' examinations should be changed at once so that greater uniformity and efficiency may be secured.

"(9) The field agent of the campaign committee should be made an assistant in this department and a salary provided for her services. The State board of education should be allowed to make a small appropriation to encourage schools to get pictures and chest of tools.

"(10) This office should be provided, at the earliest possible convenience, with sufficient rooms, furniture, files and fixtures."

TOOK PORTER AT HIS WORD.

Four Countrymen Leap from Fast-Going Train After Hearing "All Off for Baton Rouge!"

Baton Rouge, La., December 12.—Four men from the country who had never before ridden on a train, leaped from a train travelling thirty miles an hour near here today. Asked why they jumped, they said because the porter called out "All off for Baton Rouge." They were not seriously injured.

TAFT COMING SOUTH FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK

Announced That President-elect Will Arrive in Augusta on the 18th of the Month.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 10.—It is announced today that President-elect Taft and family, with the exception of Miss Helen, will arrive Friday of next week and will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Landon Thomas until the following Monday. Miss Helen

will arrive just before the Christmas holidays, coming from Bryn Mawr. A letter received from Mr. Taft asks that he be allowed to spend the first few days in complete rest, as he is greatly fatigued. In deference to his wishes his hosts announce that there will be no functions, formal or informal, until he shall have occupied the Territt cottage, after his sojourn with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas.

A Card.

To the Public:

It having come to our knowledge that the Board of Registration for Newberry County, S. C., has, as a board, been severely criticized for issuing fifteen registration certificates to various persons on the evening before the primary election for the nomination of town officers for the Town of Newberry, S. C., which primary was held in the said Town on the 24th day of November, 1908, we desire to state that we were not parties to the issuance of said certificates of registration and had nothing whatever to do with the matter.

E. Lee Hayes,
J. W. Wertz,
Members of the Board of Registration for Newberry County, S. C.

Advertised Letters.

Letters remaining in postoffice at Newberry, S. C., for week ending Dec. 12, 1908.

Mr. W. J. Baker, Mr. Manth Belford, Mr. R. T. Bobb.

Miss Mamie Clark, Wash Cossing, Mrs. Anner Cooks, Charley Cumbee, Mrs. Joicy Graham, Mr. Jno. C. Griffin

James Kennedy, Frank Mays, C. M. Martin, Miss Mary Martin, Mrs. Jane Mitchell, Mrs. M. J. Perry.

Mr. P. Rodgers, Mr. J. T. Stallings, Mrs. Amanda Stallings, Mrs. John P. Sligh, Mr. H. D. Smith, Miss Alice Sligh, Mr. J. P. S. Summers.

Mr. H. C. Williams.
All persons calling for these letters will please say that they were advertised.

C. J. Purcell, P. M.

Got the First Blow.

An Irish horse owner whose horse had been prescribed for by a veterinary surgeon ran into the latter's office and, with tears in his eyes and his face the "picture of bad luck," cried:

"Oh, Dr. Moriarity, I'm poorly! The powder's kilt me entirely!"

"The powder?" cried Dr. Moriarity. "Why, I didn't tell you to take the powder. I told you to place it in a paper tube and put one end of it in the horse's mouth and blow hard."

"Yes, sorr," said Pat. "I put the powder in the chube, and I put the end of it in the horse's mouth, with the other end in my own; but, begorra, he blew first!"

The Nervy Young Man.

Tit-Bits.

"Sir," said the nervy young man, coming into the rich merchant's office and taking a seat near the head of the firm. "I would like to ask you for your daughter's hand!"

"Why, I don't even know you, sir."

"Oh, don't let that bother you at all, sir. We'll soon get acquainted."

"So you, a perfect stranger, ask for my daughter's hand, eh?" said the rich merchant, gazing in amazement at his caller. "Which daughter do you mean? I have three."

"I mean the one with the golden hair," imparted the young man, unabashed.

"I am still in doubt, young man. Two of my daughters have golden hair. Do you mean Ellen or Marjorie?"

"Can't say which, sir. I had only a moment's view of your daughter, and have never met her to know her name. But the moment's sight of her was enough to tell me that I love her."

"And you come here to get my decision without consulting or even seeking an acquaintance with my daughter?"

"Yes. You see, sir, the time is short. Yesterday I came across your



GRAND ENSEMBLE "A NIGHT FOR A DAY" AT THE OPERA HOUSE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27.

daughter and a young man in the park. Just as I had made up my mind that I loved her, I heard the young gentleman tell her that he was coming here today to ask for her hand in marriage; so I hurried right along to get in my bid ahead of him."

"Young man," gasped the fond parent, "it's a foregone conclusion that you will accomplish what you start out to do. And you've certainly got the nerve! So go ahead and obtain an introduction to the daughter of your choice and do the rest! You've got my consent!"

Hang the Cost.

Liverpool Mercury.

"You know, George," she said thoughtfully, as they sat together on the rustic seat in the quiet eventide, "it seems such a solemn thing to marry. Have you counted the cost?"

A manly, ringing laugh shattered the nerves of the birds roosting in the branches overhead to a complicated hash.

"Cost! The cost! Bless you, Evangeline, don't you worry about the cost. I've got a cousin who's a clergyman, and he's promised to fix us up absolutely gratis!"

MEETING OF THE FARMERS' UNION.

The Farmers' Union of Calhoun county met Saturday in the court house, a pretty full attendance of the delegates and a number of visitors being present.

The regular business of the Union was transacted and the report of Messrs. Geo. W. Fahey and James M. Holman, the delegates who were sent to New Orleans to represent this county, were heard. Both these gentlemen gave glowing accounts of their trip and showed very plainly that the business men of that city were willing and ready to cooperate with the union in financing the cotton if necessary.

Mr. Fahey gave an account of the push and energy of that city which was shown him and others in reference to the preparation being made for the business which will come this way when the Panama canal is finished. They were shown more than a mile of concrete and iron wharfage, at which much business is expected to be done. Their account of the trip was full of information and interest, and the union felt repaid by sending these representatives.—St. Matthews Advance.

A LOVE LETTER.

Disclaiming at the very outset any knowledge or experience whatsoever concerning the gentle and winning art of writing love letters, we wish to state that the beautiful effusion reproduced below is from the pen of another. But so well does it express our sentiments regarding a few of our admirers that the use of it is justified. "They say" that love letters are very effective sometimes, that they produce pleasing results. So write it be! Here it is:

"Dear darling delinquent! Our precious subscriber in arrears! You are so shy! Do you think we have sold out and gone? No, little sugar-plum, we could not get away if we wanted to. We are still at the same

old stand dishing out the news on sweet promises and bright expectations. They make an excellent diet, darling, with a little pudding flavored with a word of encouragement to serve as dessert. We are waiting and watching for thee, our turtle dove. We long to hear your gentle footsteps on the stairway below and to hear the ring of the happy dollars within our office. Dear one, we feel unusually sad and lonely without you, dear. Now, little pie-crust, will you come? Do we hear you answer in a voice so sweet and beguiling, 'I'm coming,' or is it only the winds that around our office roar? We pause for further development."

And in this same connection we are constrained to say with another:

"Lives of poor men oft remind us honest toil don't stand a chance; the more we work we leave behind us bigger patches in our pants. On our pants once new and glossy now are patches of different hue; all because subscribers linger and won't pay up what is due. Then let us all be up and doing; send in your mite be it ever so small, or when the blasts of winter strike us we shall have no pants at all."—Dallas New Era.

THE CORN PRIZE CONTEST.

The raising of from 61 to 88 bushels of corn on an acre may not be considered an extraordinary achievement in the light of records from 120 bushels on up to 250 bushels and over; but still, as we see it, the people who have so generously backed the contest instituted by the Farmers' Union of York county have cause for much satisfaction over the result.

It is true that this competition was not instituted until late in the season. Much corn had already been planted before the contest was thought of, and all of the contestants were at a disadvantage so far as the making of record yields was concerned, but still the contest has been well worth while, not only from the standpoint of the actual bushels produced: but from the standpoint of the valuable object lesson that has been furnished on this most important subject.

In a country where the corn average is less than fifteen bushels to the acre and were six and eight bushels are common yields, from 60 to 80 bushels to the acre at an average net cost of only fifteen or twenty cents a bushel is something certainly worth while. It not only shows what a tremendous amount of room there is for improvement; but it shows how easily that improvement can be made, and at what a great profit to every corn grower who is willing to put forth the small, additional necessary effort.

But easily the best and most encouraging development of this experiment, is the fact that the Farmers' Union is not willing to cease its efforts on what has been accomplished. Fully appreciating the practical value of what has been done, it has determined to go on with the good work and reap all the additional benefits that have been so clearly brought to view.

While, as has been stated, the contestants in this year's contest have reason to be proud of their achievement, it is safe to predict that it will take a great many more bushels than were required to carry off the prizes

this year, to carry off the prizes next year. And as the result of the interest this contest has awakened and will awaken, we believe that there will be a great deal more corn raised in York county next year than has been raised this year.—Yorkville Enquirer.

To Utilize Cotton Stalk.

Ten thousand dollars will be appropriated by congress to enable the secretary of agriculture to conduct experiments to determine the practicability of making paper material out of cotton stalks, if a bill introduced in the house by Representative Sheppard of Texas is passed.

It is to be hoped that practically every farmer in the county will try for the Farmers' Union corn prizes next year. The competition is to be confined strictly to uplands. Every farmer who goes into the contest will be the gainer, and if enough of them we into it the county will gain tremendously.—Yorkville Enquirer.

Probably She Meant It.

Lucile, a carefully brought up little girl of five years, returned from her first party in great glee.

"I was a good girl, mamma," she announced, "and talked nice all the time."

"Did you remember to say something pleasant to Mrs. Townsend just before leaving?" her mother asked.

"Oh, yes, I did," was the enthusiastic reply. "I smiled and said, 'I enjoyed myself, Mrs. Townsend; I had a lots better dinner than I thought I'd have.'"—Delineator.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RATES.

The Charleston & Western Carolina Railway will sell excursion tickets account of the holidays at very low rates for the round trip. Tickets on sale December 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 1908, and Jan. 1, 1909. Final limit January 6, 1909.

For further information apply to ticket agents, or,

Ernest Williams,
General Passenger Agent,
807 Broadway, Augusta, Ga.

NEWBERRY UNION STATION.

Arrival and Departure of Passenger Trains—Effective 12.01 A. M. Sunday, June 7th, 1908.

Southern Railway:

No. 15 for Greenville . . . 8.57 a.m.
No. 18 for Columbia . . . 1.40 p.m.
No. 11 for Greenville . . . 3.20 p.m.
No. 16 for Columbia . . . 8.47 p.m.

C. N. & L. Ry.

No. 22 for Columbia . . . 8.47 a.m.
No. 52 for Greenville . . . 12.56 p.m.
No. 53 for Columbia . . . 3.20 p.m.
No. 21 for Laurens . . . 7.25 p.m.

* Does not run on Sunday

The time table shows the times at which trains may be expected to depart from this station, but their departure is not guaranteed and the time shown is subject to change without notice.

G. L. Robinson,
Station Master.